in India. Extra procurement of Digital Switching Equipment was necessitated by the urgent need to expand and modernise DoT's Telecom Network.

(b) Some of the important features of ISDN facility provided in this technology are:

(i) Two 64 Kbps Digital Channels and a 16 Kbps digital signaling channel for Basis Rate Access.

(ii) Supplementary services like Calling Line Identification, Call Waiting, Terminal Portability and Multiple Subscriber Number.

2. The cost of ISDN facility is included in the cost of Digital Switching Equipment.

(c) The number of subscribers using ISDN are 309. The revenue generated so far is about Rs. 50 lakhs.

(d) The number of subscribers using ISDN services in some of the developed countries in 1995, is as follows:—

(i) U.S.A.	—	507310
(ii) Japan	—	343640
(iii) Germany	—	961610
(iv) France	—	171000
(v) U.K.	—	260000
(vi) Italy	—	49060

Trader For Jelly Filled Telephone Cables

4126. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications had floated tender for jelly filled telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details inrespect of: (i) quantity and value, (ii) list of bidders and prices quoted, (iii) actual orders placed on each bidder in terms of quantity and percentage of the total order;

(c) the recommendations of the Tender Evaluation Committee regarding quantity to be ordered to each bidder; and

(d) the names of the firms that have been given orders either more or less than the quantities recommended by the Tender Evaluation Committee and extent of variation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, sir. Tender was issued on 29-1-1997 and opened on 25-3-1997.

(b) (i) The tender is for procurement of 359 lakh conductor kilometers of Polythene insulated Jelly filled cables at an estimated cost of Rs. 3381.00 crore.

(ii) As per Annexure. *[See* Appendix 180. Annexure No. 86]

(iii) The tender is presently under evaluation.

(c) The tender is presently under evaluation.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer (c) above.

Licence Agreement by LOI Holders

4127. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the LOIs issued for providing basic telephone services;

(b) the number of selected bidders who have signed the Licence Agreement and paid the first instalment of licence fee; and

(c) the action proposed in respect of LOI holders who are yet to sign the licence agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 12 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have so far been issued to 8 companies for provision of Basic Telephone Service in 12 Telecom Circles. Out of these, cases of 7 LOIs issued to 4 companies are sub-judice in the High Court of Delhi. 2 LOIs have been converted into Licences. In respect of remaining 3 LOIs, the concerned